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SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS
GILA AND SALT RIVER DRAINAGES IN ARIZONA
Special Supplemental Report
February 15, 1944

PRECIPITATION: Since the first of the year precipitation over the watersheds of the Gila and its principal tributaries, has been about 50 percent of normal. The precipitation since October 1, 1943, has been below normal, also. Streams are very low except the Verde, which is reported to be normal. The flow of the Gila in January reached the lowest stage of record. As a result farmers and stockmen are apprehensive regarding their water supply. However, the general storm over the area on February 15 and 16, has relieved the situation at least temporarily.

SNOW COVER: There is a marked shortage of snow on the watersheds of the Gila and Salt rivers in the high mountain areas. The February 15 snow surveys show that the water content of the snow is only one quarter as great as it was last year at this time. In the Springerville area, mountain slopes are bare to 8,000 feet elevation. On Bradshaw Range and Mingus Mountain, Prescott National Forest, there is no snow below elevation 6,500. According to Supervisor Ewing of the Apache National Forest, up to 10 inches of new snow was added to the cover in the high mountains of eastern Arizona by the recent storm.

RESERVOIR STORAGE: There was a slight decrease in the amount of water in storage in the Salt River Valley reservoirs and in San Carlos Reservoir since February 1. Present storage in the Salt River Valley reservoir is $\frac{3}{4}$ of what it was last year at this time and in San Carlos reservoir is only 50 percent of last year. Lake Pleasant is practically empty, the same as it was last year.

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK: From the standpoint of snow cover the water supply outlook for the coming season is unfavorable at the present time. It is not anticipated however, that a critical situation will develop in Arizona this year because of the large amount of water in storage in reservoirs and underground.

Summary of Snow Surveys, February 15, 1944
(Arizona and New Mexico Courses)

Snow Course	Location	Drainage	Snow Depth			Water Content		
			Inches			Inches		
			February 15			February 15		
			1942	1943	1944	1942	1943	1944
Frisco Divide	6 m. S. Luna	Blue R.	9.0	8.1	2.8	1.8	2.3	1.0
State Line	5 m. W. Luna	"	16.4	11.6	6.7	3.2	3.4	1.6
Nutriosio	4 m. W. Alpine	San Fran.R.	7.7	7.1	1.1	1.8	2.3	0.4
Beaver Head	11 m. SW. Alpine	Castle Cr.	13.6	14.0	1.0	3.5	4.5	0.3
Coronado Trail	4 m. S. Alpine	Coleman Cr.	14.9	13.1	4.9	5.9	3.8	1.6
McNary	3 m. NW. McNary	Salt R.	8.3	14.4	3.4	1.3	4.3	0.7
Forest Dale	5 m. SW. Showlow	" "	7.7	3.3	0.0	1.3	0.9	0.0
Milk Ranch	4 m. W. McNary	" "	7.5	10.3	0.0	1.1	2.6	0.0
Taylor Creek	13 mi. NW. Chloride	Gila River	--	0.8	0.0	--	0.5	0.0
Average			10.6	10.2	2.5	2.5	3.0	0.7

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